

Application No.: 09/889916

Docket No.: HHI-032USRCE

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1 and 6 as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing light-metal pellets, comprising feeding molten light metal into a gap between two cooling bodies, dividing the molten light metal into pellets of specified size along grooves formed between the pellets or by completely separating the pellets before the pellets solidify, and adding fibers, particles or similar additives immediately before the molten light metal enters the gap.
2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising synchronously rotating the cooling bodies from an initial arrangement in which surfaces of the cooling bodies are spaced a certain distance from each other, into a second arrangement in which the surfaces are spaced close together to form the gap, and subsequently rotating into a third spaced arrangement.
3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the rotation from the initial to the third arrangement of the cooling bodies occurs from top to bottom.
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising generating a strip of connected pellets exiting the cooling bodies, such that the strip is not broken up into individual pellets until a later stage.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the light metal comprises magnesium.

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6. (Currently Amended) A device for producing light-metal pellets, comprising:

means for feeding molten light metal into a gap between two cooling bodies;

means for dividing the molten light metal into pellets of specified size along grooves or by completely separating them before the pellets solidify; and

means for adding fibers, particles or similar additives immediately before the molten light metal enters the gap, wherein the cooling bodies comprise depressions on opposing faces such that the molten light metal between the two cooling bodies is formed into pellets of the shape determined by the depressions.

7. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 6, wherein the cooling bodies have the form of conveyor belts with two reversing points each, and a cooling zone provided between them along which the two cooling bodies form the gap or are disposed in contact with one another.

8. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 6, wherein the cooling bodies have ridges projecting from opposing faces, such that the molten light metal between the two cooling bodies are formed into pellets, which are separated by the ridges.

9. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 6, wherein the cooling bodies are designed as two wheels or rollers which are arranged adjacent to or in contact with one another so as to form a gap between circumferential edges.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of feeding the molten light metal into a funnel formed between the cooling bodies.